

**MAY 2003 AGENDA**

SUBJECT Review of entry requirements for alternative schools participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM).		ACTION
	X	INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

Review recommendations of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee for the Public Schools Accountability Act relating to criteria for alternative schools participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Members of the State Board have requested that the criteria for alternative schools participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) be reviewed and made more rigorous. The Superintendent's Advisory Committee for the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) will review the criteria and develop recommendations at its meeting on April 24, 2003 for presentation as information to the Board in May.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

Several types of alternative schools that are defined in law participate in the ASAM. These include Community Day Schools, Continuation Schools, Opportunity Schools, Juvenile Court Schools, County Community Schools, and California Youth Authority (CYA) Schools. Approximately 170 "other alternative schools," including 33 charter schools, also participate. For districts and county offices of education that have "other alternative schools" participating in the ASAM, the Superintendent and Local Governing Board Chairperson must both certify that the purpose of the school is to serve students with specified characteristics, and that these students currently make up a majority of the student population. These student characteristics include "classified as being at high risk for behavioral or educational failure."

Questions have been raised about the appropriateness of the ASAM for certain "other alternative schools." Stated another way, questions have been raised as to whether the criteria that those schools have had to meet in order to participate in the ASAM have been sufficiently well-defined and rigorous.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

None

Attachment(s)

Additional materials will be provided in the supplemental agenda.